



## Herring Gull

A childhood joy, the familiar Herring Gull is found on both the East and West coasts patrolling beaches, escorting fishing boats in and out of harbor, following the tides in hopes of its scavengers' reward. Commonly seen soaring high overland, the gull's loud, clear, bugle-like call is as familiar as the sound of the sea itself.

These sturdy, robust birds nest in large colonies, often numbering as many as 1,000 gulls, in nests composed of seaweed and collected litter. Both the male and female gull share domestic duties, with the male scavenging and feeding the young gull his digested food.

At six weeks of age the nestling will be on his own, perhaps to live for as long as 28 years. By his fourth autumn he will have acquired his adult plumage and reached his full growth of 22 to 26 inches.

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